

REMARKS

This is a response to the Final Office Action mailed May 22, 2008. Claims 1-7 were pending in the subject patent application and were rejected by the Examiner. By this submission the Applicant amends claims 1, 4-6. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner's request for addition of reference numerals in the claims has been implemented including such inclusions following each recitation of such claim limitation. In further clarification, Applicant has so amended that the intermediate piece (p. 3, lines 16-19) is consistently denoted 11. The cylindrical billet erroneously carries the label 1 per specification (p. 2, lines 29), whereas this slight typographical error is here corrected in the specification for consistency and the bar denoted by 1 in figure 1, is so labeled through amendment in the specification at p.2, line 32 to conform with figure 1. These amendments present consistency with the description wherein a bar 1 (of selected stock) is forged to obtain the intermediate piece/billet 11.

Rejections per § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 1 and 7 is grounded on the combination of Shigihara (of record) with Sun (of record). In the previous amendment, Applicant responded to rejection of claim 1 by the preceeding Office Action with incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1 bearing the express limitation

"wherein during the axial compression (P₁) of said workpiece, a radial expansion thereof is prevented."

Shigihara is quoted in Applicant's previous paper to the effect that use of a smaller diameter billet (than the hole in the die 10) would *allow radial expansion after axial compression*. In contrast, the present claim 1 is express in the limitation of preventing radial expansion of the workpiece. The Examiner has remained silent in respect to this point and simply remarks that Applicant's arguments are moot in view of new grounds of rejection. Shigihara's words should remove that reference from the combination and thus, that combination fails to ground the rejection.

Rejections of dependent claims are noted, and inasmuch as these claims depend from claim 1, allowance of such claims is believed appropriate with allowance of claim 1.

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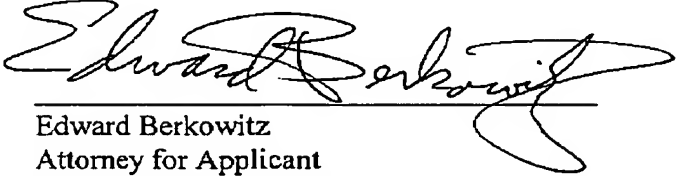
Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that Applicant has demonstrated distinction of the present claims over the cited art and the present application is in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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